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Federal Communication Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

August 10, 2011

FCC
455 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois is a trade association representing over 12,000 licensed insurance producers (agents) in 1,200 agencies. As insurance professionals, our members are attuned to the importance of planning for the future. As independent business people, we are vitally interested in creating opportunities for economic development in Illinois.

Both concerns lead us to ask your favorable consideration for the pending merger of AT&T Wireless with T-Mobile. As part of the merger, AT&T has committed to an \$8 billion nationwide investment in advanced wireless broadband. This would help secure the economic future of Illinois and the rest of America. High-speed broadband is a tool for job growth and a vital asset to help even small businesses compete in the global economy.

The FCC has made 100 percent access to broadband a national priority. It appears to us that the AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile merger is the fastest and most practical option on the horizon for moving America to that goal. It would do so without adding to our tax burden or further straining the federal debt level. We would see private investment in the public interest, a rare benefit that can be appreciated across party and ideological lines.

We recognize the complexity the commission faces in reviewing a merger of this size and we hope your deliberations will lead to approval.

Sincerely,



Michael Tate
CEO, Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois



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